

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically ~~synthesized~~ modified double stranded ~~short interfering~~ nucleic acid (~~siNA~~) molecule ~~that directs cleavage of a GPRA RNA via RNA interference (RNAi), wherein:~~
 - a) ~~each strand of said siNA molecule is about 18 to about 23 nucleotides in length; and~~ the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense strand and separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;
 - b) ~~one strand of said siNA molecule comprises nucleotide sequence having sufficient complementarity to said GPRA RNA for the siNA molecule to direct cleavage of the GPRA RNA via RNA interference;~~ each strand of the nucleic acid molecule is 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;
 - c) the antisense strand of the nucleic acid molecule comprises 18 to 27 nucleotides that are complementary to a GPRA RNA comprising SEQ ID NO: 811;
 - d) the sense strand of the nucleic acid molecule is complementary to the antisense strand, and comprises a 18 to 27 nucleotide portion of the GPRA RNA sequence;
 - e) about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in each of the sense and antisense strands of the nucleic acid molecule are chemically modified with modifications independently selected from the group consisting of 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxy, phosphorothioate and deoxyabasic modifications; and
 - f) one or more of the purine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides and one or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~said siNA~~ the nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein the ~~fragment comprising said~~ sense ~~region~~ strand includes a terminal cap moiety at ~~a~~ the 5'-end, ~~a~~ the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the ~~fragment comprising said~~ sense ~~region~~ strand.
17. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides ~~of present in said~~ the antisense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
19. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides ~~of present in said~~ the antisense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in ~~said the~~ antisense region strand ~~comprise~~ are 2'-deoxy- purine nucleotides.
21. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~18~~ 1, wherein ~~said the~~ antisense region strand comprises a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of ~~said the~~ antisense region strand.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein ~~a 5' end of the fragment comprising said the~~ antisense region strand ~~optionally~~ includes a terminal phosphate group.
31. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in ~~a an~~ pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Canceled)
34. (Canceled)
35. (Canceled)
36. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 19, wherein 1, 2, or 3 of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

37. (New) A method of inhibiting the expression of human GPRA comprising administering the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 to a subject in need thereof that expresses human GPRA under conditions that allow for inhibition of human GPRA expression.